

Human Rights Commission Meeting Minutes from July 15, 2010.

Meeting called to order at 7:10 pm.

Present: Eunice Torres, Frank Gatti, Reynolds Winslow, Lois Raj, Mohamed Elgadi, Stefan Cejic and Kathleen Anderson.

Excused: Victoria Olivia

Kathleen moved and Frank seconded a motion to accept as submitted minutes from June 17th.

Topics covered during July 15th meeting:

- Darfur update by Mohamed. Reported on trial of Pres. Brashir (sp?) indicted on charges of genocide.
- Heroes Group Award: reported by Reynolds who will work with Frank to get list of potential awardee nominations for children and elders. Ideas for getting elder nominations include media communication, churches, Senior Center via Maura Plante. ACTV subcommittee will convene on Sept. 16 2010 at 6:30 to invite community representatives to assist with nomination and selection process
- Communications—Josiah Litant may continue in role as liaison communications person, serving along with Stefan and Victoria
- Dr. Sandy Muspratt and Dr. Ruth Hook have been asked to speak at the Dec. 10, 2010 Declaration of Human Rights Day.
- Reynolds offered the suggestion that Commissioners might want to rotate writing news articles for the Bulletin/Gazette related a Human Rights topic of their interest
- Joe Wronka to draft a Town Meeting Article on recognizing International Day of Children. Mr. Wronka would like endorsement by the Amherst Human Rights Commission. Frank will invite Joe to our Sept. meeting to discuss the article
- Eunice brought two concerns from elders:
 - One senior is upset regarding changes in Community farm Plot agreements. The elder in question would like a farm plot fee reduction. Eunice agreed to speak with the Conservation Dept. to get the Plot Policy and explain to the elder that this issue is outside the H.R.C. purview
 - Another elder is engaged in a tenant-landlord issue. H.R.C. cannot handle this issue. Eunice will refer complainant to Town of Amherst social worker Kathy Bennett.

Reynolds will set a future July date for self identified H.R.C. members who want to accompany him to a meeting with U. Mass Chancellors Byron Bullock and Jean Kim. Reynolds will inform said H.R.C. members of the meeting date.

Eunice informed the committee of a newly published book on Hurricane Katrina by Town of Amherst Sister City, Bay St. Louis member Ellis Anderson.

Kathleen and Frank mentioned that a similar flood experience happened during the 1927 when the Mississippi River flooded the town of Greenville, MS. P.B.S has documented this tragedy in their film "Fatal Flood: a story of greed, power and race." Interested people can find the details at <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/flood/>

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Kathleen Anderson, H.R. Commissioner